



# IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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Smarter**

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## Rebuild Iowa Award for Service Recipients Announced

Governor Chet Culver and the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) will recognize one couple, five individuals and three organizations with the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service this month. The award recognizes Iowans who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in Iowa's 2008 disaster recovery efforts.

Recipients of the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service are:

- Ken DeNault of Cedar Falls
- Sarah Dyck of Iowa City
- Karla Goettel of Cedar Rapids
- Michael and Lynette Richards of Cedar Rapids
- Steve Thomas of Cedar Rapids



*RIO Executive Director, Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis presents the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service to the Butler County Disaster Recovery Coalition (accepted by Jeff Kolb). At right is nominator Mitch Nordmeyer, Butler County Emergency Management Coordinator.*

- Leslie Wright of Cedar Rapids
- Block By Block of Cedar Rapids
- Butler County Disaster Recovery Coalition
- Iowa Community Foundations of Des Moines

*(Continued on page 4)*

## The RIO Releases its July Quarterly Report

Earlier this month, the Rebuild Iowa Office released its July Quarterly Report. The report provides an update to the public, legislators and other local, state and federal recovery stakeholders on the progress and challenges that remain in Iowa's recovery from the 2008 floods and tornadoes.

The report details the RIO's five economic recovery strategies and provides updates on 10 goal areas vital to the state's recovery effort. The report also includes updated charts showing the flow of federal and state disaster recovery funding to the state, counties, cities and individuals affected by the 2008 disasters.

The report was prepared for Governor Culver and Iowa legislators in accordance with House File 64. This is the RIO's sixth Quarterly Report since the Office was formalized last year. To access the July Quarterly Report, visit the RIO Web site at [www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/reports.html](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/resources/reports.html).

## Flood Seminars Hosted in Five Iowa Cities

Five communities across the state hosted seminars to help Iowans better understand the 2008 floods and how to better plan and prepare for future flooding.

The free, public seminar series was titled "Anatomy of Iowa Floods: Preparing for the Future," and was held in Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Waverly, Mason City and Ames.

Topics covered included trends in Iowa precipitation; trends in water run-off; work of the Iowa Flood Center; floodplain management strategies; water quality; the Cedar Falls Floodplain Initiative; rural-urban watershed coalition building; and a review of state public policy issues. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session following each seminar.

The seminars were hosted by the University of Iowa's Center for



*Cedar Falls City Council member Kamyar Enshayan addresses a question at the Cedar Rapids Flood Seminar. Earlier, Enshayan discussed Cedar Falls' Floodplain Initiative.*

Global & Regional Environmental Research, Rebuild Iowa Office, UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department

of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa State Association of Counties.

## Iowa Among First to Conduct Long-Term Disaster Recovery Exercise

On June 24, the RIO held Iowa's first long-term recovery exercise. The exercise will eventually lead to the creation of a state long-term disaster recovery framework.

Iowa is second only to Arkansas in holding such a recovery exercise to create a long-term disaster recovery plan. Throughout the day, officials from various state government departments and agencies, local governments and non-profits discussed what issues must be addressed in order to design and establish a lasting framework to coordinate future long-term disaster recovery efforts.

"The State must have a formal, permanent system in order to effectively coordinate a lasting long-term recovery effort for future disasters," said Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, executive director of the

Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO). "Since the RIO first began assisting in the coordination of the 2008 disaster recovery, we have heard this message loud and clear."

At the exercise, officials worked to accomplish three objectives:

- design an effective, coordinating framework which includes identification of roles and responsibilities of the entities involved
- identify the protocols for rapid activation and deactivation of the state disaster recovery framework
- develop and maintain a process to update the state disaster recovery framework and provide interagency exercise training programs

The objectives were addressed by discussing the following long-term

recovery issues:

- prioritizing issues and goal-setting
- identifying gaps, duplications and timelines in programs and funding for long-term recovery
- developing policies and procedures, prior to recovery-related disbursement, that ensures timely, effective and transparent use of funds in recovery
- implementing a communication strategy to ensure accountability, transparency and effective real-time information sharing for recovery

The discussions and comments will be used to create a State Long-Term Disaster Recovery Framework. The draft framework will be available for public comment later this year and will be presented to the Governor's Office and state legislators on Dec. 30.

## Deadlines Extended for Business Programs

The Iowa Dept. of Economic Development has extended several disaster recovery business program application deadlines previously set at June 30. The following programs now have an application deadline of Dec. 31, 2010:

- The **Commercial Rental Revenue Gap Assistance Program** which assists with cash flow for commercial building owners to offset the loss of revenue from disaster-damaged rental space.
- The **Residential Landlord Business Support Program** which compensates residential rental landlords for lost rental revenue for disaster-affected units.
- The **Loan Interest Supplement Program** which provides funds to business owners to pay for the interest on an SBA or private loan for disaster recovery (applicants must still have acquired a physical disaster loan prior to June 30, 2010).
- The **Equipment Reimbursement Assistance Program** which provides financial assistance to businesses that

had disaster-related equipment, machinery, inventory, supplies and furniture losses.

- The **Business Rental Assistance Program** and the **Expanded Business Rental Assistance Program** which assist businesses locating in disaster-affected areas.
- The **Flood Insurance Reimbursement Program** which provides financial assistance to reimburse eligible businesses for the cost of one year of flood insurance.

Despite deadline extensions, businesses are highly encouraged to turn in applications for these programs to their local Council of Government or Entitlement City as soon as possible since funds are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Summaries of these programs can be found on Iowa Dept. of Economic Development's Web site at [www.iowalifechanging.com](http://www.iowalifechanging.com).

## More Iowa Families to Receive Housing Assistance

On July 13, the Iowa Dept. of Economic Development (IDED) announced reduced restrictions on the Replacement Housing Assistance Program. The program modification is expected to assist approximately 200 additional families across Iowa that are in need of funds for replacement housing after the 2008 disasters.

The program is funded with a portion of the state's nearly \$800 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars from HUD.

"The Iowa Department of Economic Development continues to work with HUD to ensure as many impacted Iowans as possible are assisted with federal disaster funds," said Governor Culver. "We are thrilled to hear this news. CDBG funding comes with many restrictions, however the staff at IDED has been persistent in breaking new ground by asking for various funding modifications and

waivers, so more Iowans can recover."

The average price of a home in a buyout costs much less than the average price of a home sold in Iowa today, leaving impacted homeowners with a funding gap and in need of additional assistance. Before the modification, only families at 100 percent or below Area Median Income (AMI) were allowed to keep up to \$25,000 of their state or federal down payment assistance award toward a replacement or newly constructed home.

Now, homeowners at or below 120 percent AMI who received state or federal housing assistance can keep up to \$25,000. That means up to \$25,000 of this money will no longer be considered a "duplication" and deducted from a person's buyout funds.

Homeowners with questions are encouraged to talk with their local Councils of Government or Entitlement City.

*For monthly  
funding updates  
on Iowa's 2008  
disaster recovery,  
visit the RIO Web  
site at  
[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)  
and click on the  
"Disaster Funds  
for Iowa" button.*



## The Rebuild Iowa Office



*The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.*

[www.rio.iowa.gov](http://www.rio.iowa.gov)

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## Applications Available for Local Planning Grants

Applications for the "Iowa Smart Planning: Local Comprehensive Planning Grant Program" are now available through the RIO and Iowa Dept. of Economic Development.

Eligible applicants include any of the 85 counties that were presidentially declared disaster areas as a result of the storms of 2008, as well as any city government within those counties. Applicants may request up to \$50,000 per participating governmental entity and must provide a one-to-one match. Multi-jurisdictional plans are encouraged.

These grants are intended to support development and adoption of forward-thinking comprehensive plans that will guide long-term recovery efforts and subsequent decisions that reduce existing

or future development in flood-risk areas. Application guidelines and the application form, can be found at [http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart\\_planning/index.html](http://www.rio.iowa.gov/smart_planning/index.html). The deadline to apply is Sept. 30, 2010.

The program is based on the Iowa Smart Planning Principles and comprehensive planning guidance contained in Senate File 2389, signed into law April 26, 2010. Smart Planning is meant to improve community resiliency following the storms of 2008 in ways that increase economic opportunity, protect environmental resources and improve quality of life.

The \$1 million program is funded through federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided to Iowa in response to the 2008 disasters.

### REBUILD IOWA AWARD (continued from page 1)

Recipients will be presented with a plaque during a special ceremony at various public events throughout July. Recipients will also be featured in the RIO's press release series "Working to Recover."

Award nominees were judged on volunteer hours, community impact, creativity, leadership and project(s) sustainability. All applications were judged by an independent selection committee made up of public dignitaries and private citizens involved with the state's 2008 disaster recovery effort.

Additionally, Governor Culver and RIO Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis recognized 12 individuals and groups with Certificates of Appreciation for their work in Iowa's 2008 disaster recovery effort.

Certificate recipients are Ellen and Jim FitzPatrick of Mason City; Virgil Goodrich of Parkersburg; Elaine Haugen of Ankeny; Black Hawk County Long-Term Recovery Committee in Waterloo; The Christian Reformed World Relief Committee in Byron Center, Mich.; Community Corrections Improvement Association VISTA in Cedar Rapids; Iowa Association of Regional Councils in Altoona; Iowa Disaster Human Resources Council in Johnston; Keepers of the Land AmeriCorps Members in Des Moines; North Cedar Neighborhood Association in Cedar Falls; North Iowa Community Action Organization in Mason City; and Theater Cedar Rapids in Cedar Rapids.

### Clip & Save...

#### Iowa Disaster Recovery Contacts

Rebuild Iowa Office ( <a href="http://www.rio.iowa.gov">www.rio.iowa.gov</a> )	866.849.0323
Ticket to Hope crisis counseling ( <a href="http://www.tickettohope.org">www.tickettohope.org</a> )	800.447.1985 (the Iowa Concern Hotline)
Iowa Mortgage Help ( <a href="http://www.IowaMortgageHelp.com">www.IowaMortgageHelp.com</a> )	877.622.4866
National Flood Insurance Program ( <a href="http://www.floodsmart.gov">www.floodsmart.gov</a> )	888.379.9531
Federal Emergency Management Agency ( <a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a> )	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
U.S. Small Business Administration ( <a href="http://www.sba.gov">www.sba.gov</a> )	800.659.2955